

Tom Williams

# Weighed Down by Light

Contrabass Clarinet

*to Sarah Watts*

Tom Williams

# *Weighed Down by Light*

for

contrabass clarinet and fixed media

The work's title and inspiration comes from an Alice Oswald poem, 'Cold Streak', from her collection *Falling Awake*, which, among other things, explores the relentlessness of time – 'dazzling stubbornness of the sun keeping to its clock' and the weightedness of hope and the lightness of patience. Falling and heaviness interplaying with lightness and the cold sunlit light are resonances musically extemporized in the composition.

The work is in one movement with a number of distinct sections - and is conceptually seen as a concerto for the instrument. After the opening exposition section there are three distinct and charged rhythmic sections interspersed with more declamatory material. The final section moves into a coda that reprises opening elements.

The fixed media is a stereo electroacoustic soundscore generated from contrabass clarinet material (using Kyma 7) recorded in collaboration with Sarah Watts. The fixed media is performed in sync with the contrabass as a computer playback. An additional click track runs concurrently. There are three fixed media sections with start points. The fixed media part is available from the composer.

The work was premiered by Sarah Watts in the Sound Agendas Composers' Conference, Sheffield University, 29th April, 2018.

to Sarah Watts  
**Weighed Down by Light**  
 for Contrabass Clarinet and fixed media

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Fixed media start (1)  
+ click track

always play expressively light

Contrabass Clarinet in B $\flat$   $\text{♩} = 60$

*ff* *pp* *mp* *mf* *pp* *ppp* *p*

(\* cross notehead is always slap tongue)

5 Cb. Cl. to norm. *pppp* *f* *ppp* with weight *f* *fp*

8 Cb. Cl. (\*\*diamond notehead always denotes overblow attack) *ff* *mp* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *fp* *mf* *fp* **\*\* as previous**

11 Cb. Cl. poco rit. a poco a poco .. accel. a tempo *f* *p* *f* *p*

12 Cb. Cl. poco accel. a tempo  $\text{♩} + \text{nat. harm.}$  *ff* *p* *pp* *f*

14 Cb. Cl. start pure move to very breathy but still with some fundamental and add (wavering) high overtones *ppp* *mp* *pp* *mf* *pp*

16 Cb. Cl. norm. *ff* *mf*

18 Cb. Cl. 3 poco accel. a tempo *ppp* *ff* *fp* *ff* *fff*

finding light poco a poco vib.

20 norm. *fff* *mp* *mf* *pp* *f* *p* *f*

lighten (to non vib.)

23 *ppp* *pp* *mp*

24 norm. to dirty to clean! *f* *p* *f* *ppp*

25 vib to non.vib. *ff* *p* *mp* *ppp*

27 *p* *f* *p* *mp* *ppp*

28 *ff* *p* *ff* *ppp* *p*

30 to gentle vib. norm. to gentle vib. norm. *p* *pppp* *f* *p*

32 to slow molto vib. norm. *mp*

33 pure tone that slowly moves to a wavering and then let rip! *pp* *ff*

(\* ossia, this pitch can be played a octave higher still)

dirty multiphonic with this fundamental  
slowly then lose the multiphonics as dim.

and become very breathy

Cb. Cl. 34 *fff* *ppp*

Fixed media start (2)  
+ click track

**A** ♩ = 78  
light

*always ritmico, measured, & always loud notes are controlled -*

*always forte low with weight -*

Cb. Cl. 37 *p* *ff* *p*

Cb. Cl. 40 *ff* *p* *ff* *p*

Cb. Cl. 43 *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff*

Cb. Cl. 46 *p* *ff* *p*

Cb. Cl. 48 *ff* *p*

Cb. Cl. 50 *ff* *p*

Cb. Cl. 52 *ff* *p* *ff* *p*

Cb. Cl. 54 *ff* *pp* *mf* *ff* *p*

Cb. Cl. 57 *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff*

61 Cb. Cl. *ff* *pp* *p*

64 Cb. Cl. *fff* *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *ppp* *ff*

67 Cb. Cl. *pp*

68 Cb. Cl. *mf* *pp* *mp* *pp* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

70 Cb. Cl. *p* *pp* *fff*

71 Cb. Cl. *ff* *f* *mf* *p*

73 Cb. Cl. *ff* *ff* *p*

76 Cb. Cl. *ff* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *ff* *p*

78 Cb. Cl. *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff*

81 Cb. Cl. *ff* *p* *mf* *p* *ff* *p*

83 Cb. Cl. *ff* *p* *f* *p* *mp* *p*

85 Cb. Cl. *ff* *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *ff*

87 Cb. Cl. sub. *p*

89 Cb. Cl. *ff* *p* *ff*

91 Cb. Cl.

92 Cb. Cl. *pp* *mf*

93 Cb. Cl. *mf*

94 Cb. Cl. *ff* *mf* *ppp* *mf* *ppp*

96 Cb. Cl. norm. dirty to clean becoming more and more breathy *mp* *f* *ppp* *f*

98 Cb. Cl. Fixed media start (3) + click track **B** *f*

101  
Cb. Cl. *f p f p f p f p f p*

103  
Cb. Cl. *f p* 5 *f p f p* 5 5 *f p f p f*

105  
Cb. Cl. *f p f p f p* 5 5 *p* 5 5 *f p f*

107  
Cb. Cl. *p f f p* 3 *f p f p f p f*

109  
Cb. Cl. *p f p f p f* 3 3

110  
Cb. Cl. *f p* 5 *f p f mp* *p* 5 5 *f p f*

112  
Cb. Cl. *p f p f p pp* 5 5

113  
Cb. Cl. *f p f p* 5 *f* 5 *ff*

114  
Cb. Cl. *p f p f p* 5 5

115  
Cb. Cl. *f p f p* 5 *f mf ff*

116  
Cb. Cl. *fff mp* 5 *fff p fff fp*



Cb. Cl. 118 *f* 5 3 *pp* *ff* *ff* *f* 5 3 *pp*

**C** 82  
furious - and with expression

Cb. Cl. 121 *fp* *ff* 3 3 3 *f* 5 3 *ff*

Cb. Cl. 123 3 3

Cb. Cl. 124 chattering *pp* 3 3 3 3 5

Cb. Cl. 125 angry *ppp* *fff* 3 3 3 3 5 3 *ppp*

Cb. Cl. 128 *p* 5 3 *ppp* *p* 5 3 *pppp*

Cb. Cl. 130 declamatory *ff*

Cb. Cl. 133 =78 *p* 3 *ppp* add vib. *mf* breathy *pppp*

134  $\text{♩} = 60$  lightly

Cb. Cl. *p* *pp*

**D**  $\text{♩} = 108$  norm. ritmico, controlled, contrasting dynamics

137 *ff p p ff p ff p ff p* *3*

139 *ff p ff p ff p ff p ff p ff*

142 *ff p p ff p*

144 *ff p ff p* *3*

145 *ff p* *3*

146 *3 fff 3*

147 *mp ff p* *5*

148 *ff*

150 *ff p ff p ff p ff p*

[illegible]

Cb. Cl. 170 *ff*

Cb. Cl. 172 *ff* *mp* 5 *ff* *pp*

Cb. Cl. 174 *p* *mp* 5 *mf* *f* *p*

Cb. Cl. 176 *pp* *f* *p* *f* **E**  $\text{♩} = 90$

Cb. Cl. 178 *pp* *mf* *pp* *ff* *f* *fff* *furiosity* 3

Cb. Cl. 182 *f* 3 3 5 *p* *ff*

Cb. Cl. 184 *mf* *p* *pp* *mp* *pp* *becoming calm*  $\text{♩} = 52$  *smooth* *slowly add low multiphonics with this note,*

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187 *to breathy* *cantabile, espr.*

Cb. Cl. *p* *f* *p* *p*

191 *espr.* *pp* *p*

192 *ritmico* *espr.* *poco a poco molto vib.* *pp*

193 *ritmico* *pp* *espr.* *poco a poco molto vib.* *light* *pp* 5

194 *poco a poco vib. norm.* *ritmico* *p* 3 3 *ff*

195 *espr.* *poco a poco molto vib.* *pp* *pp* 5

196 *poco a poco vib. norm.* *ritmico* *f* *ff* 3

197 *heavy moving* *ff* *p* *ff* *pp* 3

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198 *darkening* *light*

Cb. Cl. *ff* *p* *ff* *pp* *p*

199 *sim.*

Cb. Cl. *ff* *p* *ff* *fff* *ff* *p*

200 *always light*

Cb. Cl. *ff* *p* *ff* *pp*

201 *poco espr.*

Cb. Cl. *mf* *pp* 5 *p* *mf* *pp* 5 *p*

203 *darkening*

Cb. Cl. *ff* *p* *mf* *p*

205 **F**  $\text{♩} = 60$  *think thick and dark*

Cb. Cl.

208 *dark to light* *dark*

Cb. Cl.

211 **G**  $\text{♩} = 82$

Cb. Cl. *espr.* *p* *5* *ff* *vib.* *ritmico* *espr.* *vib.* *p*

215 *meno vib.* *p* *vib.* *ff* *non vib.* *to light* *pp*

217 *ritmico* *ff* *5*

219 *vib. to non vib.* *fpp* *very breathy, unstable* *mp* *f* *non vib. to molto vib. become very breathy.* *ppp* *mf*

222 *to norm. fleetingly, light, espr.* *pp* *5* *p*

223 *a vib.* *sub.* *mf* *f* *ppp* *norm.* *p* *ppp*

225 *with clarity* *norm.* *vib. to non vib.* *weighed down* *mf* *p* *ppp* *f*